

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 101835Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6279
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2096

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS

1. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS WAS BURIED AUG 8 IN A ROUGH-HEWN ROCK MAUSOLEUM ON A HILLTOP NAMED THRONI OVERLOOKING THE KYKKO MONASTERY, IN TROODOS MOUNTAINS. THE SITE AND THE DESIGN OF THE MAUSOLEUM HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MAKARIOS FOLLOWING HIS HEART ATTACK OF LAST APRIL.

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2. THE FUNERAL CEREMONIES WERE WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL-ATTENDED. OVER TWO HUNDRED DIGNITARIES, REPRESENTING SIXTY COUNTRIES AND INCLUDING HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS, WERE PRESENT FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN OF PALOURIOTISSA IN NICOSIA. FOLLOWING SPEECHES BY CHRYSOSTOMOS, BISHOP OF PAPHOS AND LOCUM TENENS (ACTING

ARCHBISHOP); ACTING PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU; AND GREEK PRESIDENT TSATSOS, THE DIGNITARIES FILED BY MAKARIOS' COFFIN AND PAID FINAL RESPECTS.

3. THE COFFIN, INITIALLY TRANSPORTED ON A JEEP-PULLED GUNCARRIAGE THROUGH THE STREETS OF NICOSIA, WAS TRANSFERRED TO A HEARSE FOR THE DRIVE TO THE MAUSOLEUM. GRIEF-STRICKEN CYPRIOTS, SOMETIMES STANDING IN ROWS UP TO TEN DEEP, LINED THE HIGHWAY TO THE BURIAL SITE. THEIR NUMBER MAY HAVE TOTALLED 100,000.

4. THE FUNERAL CORTEGE PASSED THROUGH MANY VILLAGES WHERE THE INHABITANTS HAD COVERED THE HIGHWAY WITH BRANCHES OF THYME. FREQUENTLY THE CARAVAN WAS SLOWED OR STOPPED AS PEOPLE TRIED TO PLACE FLOWERS ON THE HEARSE. ALONG THE ROUTE, BANNERS PROCLAIMING "MAKARIOS LIVES" WERE STRETCHED OVER THE HIGHWAY WITH SIMILAR SLOGANS PAINTED ON THE HIGHWAY AND NEARBY BUILDINGS.

5. AFTER THE CORTEGE ARRIVED AT THE KYKKO MONASTERY, A SHORT CEREMONY WAS HELD BEFORE THE COFFIN WAS TAKEN IN PROCESSION UP TO THE SAOTE MAUSOLEUM. MAKARIOS WAS BURIED IN AN OPEN CASKET INSIDE THE MAUSOLEUM WITH THE ATTENDING CHURCH AND STATE OFFICIALS EACH PARTICIPATING IN THE BURIAL.

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6. TRAVELERS IN THE CORTEGE TO THRONI, WHO INCLUDED SENATOR SARBANES, CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS AND AMBASSADOR, COULD NOT BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE OBVIOUS PROFOUND VENERATION APPROACHING WORSHIP WHICH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF HIS GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE DEMONSTRATING FOR THE MAN WHO HAD LED THEM TO INDEPENDENCE AND SINCE.

7. THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG THE VISITING DELEGATIONS WAS THAT THE GOC, LIMITED IN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL, HANDLED THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL. CRAWFORD

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